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**DOCKERMOUTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual Report


OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

John Patterson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1957

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Public Health Inspector



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Urban District Council of
Cockermouth

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the year

1957

Cockermouth Urban District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Fourth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Cockermouth Urban District Council.

Again, the report is mainly in statistical form to give comparisons between succeeding years.

There was no poliomyelitis in the district, but I would draw your attention to the report on the influenza epidemic.

My thanks are again due to Mr. M. M. Dixon, the Council's Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, who shortly after the end of 1957, left to take up another appointment. His place has been taken by Mr. J. J. Pattison, who has prepared the second part of this report from records left by his predecessor.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the continued help given to me by the Clerk to the Council and his staff and the kindness shown to me by the Members of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PATTERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

J. PATTERSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

M. M. DIXON, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.San.I., M.I.H.E.

COCKERMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For the Year 1957.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area :—

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1957)	5,340
Number of inhabited houses (end 1957) according to Rate	Books 1,925
Rateable Value	£46,382
Sum represented by Penny Rate (approx.)	£179

RAINFALL.

Records,* taken at Sunscals Reservoir, Cockermouth, 330 feet above sea level :—

1956	Inches of rain	Over 1 inch of rain fell on the following dates :—
January	2.80	
February	0.71	
March	1.46	
April	1.15	
May	3.17	
June	1.79	
July	4.70	29th
August	8.64	27th
September	3.98	
October	3.18	19th.
November	1.74	
December	5.73	

Total 39.05

(5 years' average rainfall 1952-1956 inclusive—42.15 inches)

*Kindly given by Mr. M. M. Dixon, Surveyor, Cockermouth Urban District Council.

POPULATION.

The population figure of 5,340 is given for the year 1957 by the Registrar General and called by him the "Home Population". On this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

The population figure for 1956 was 5,310.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.

Cockermouth is an old market town (its Royal Charter having been granted in the year 1221). For many years Saw-Mills, Building Contractors, a Brewery and the Railway have employed a considerable number of persons (mainly male) and since 1939 five new works of employment were commenced; one of these, a Blood Manure factory has ceased; the other four are made up of a Shoe and Slipper factory, a Clothing factory, a light Engineering works and a Precast Concrete works, employing altogether over 1,100 persons including a large number of female labour, particularly at the two first-named which also have workers from outside the Urban area. There are as well, of course, those individuals absorbed by the usual businesses and trades of a small country town. A few find employment about the large cattle Mart, whilst a few are engaged in agriculture, and in coal mines, quarries and steelworks outside the district.

STATISTICS.

The Tables of vital statistics are set out below showing birth rates, death rates and rates for maternal and infantile mortality.

Crude birth and death rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar General. They allow for varying age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and enable comparisons to be made with figures for other areas.

This year the factor for births is 1.01 and for deaths 1.00.

The total live births were 95, a decrease of 3 on the figure for 1956, resulting in a birth rate of 17.8 (18.0 corrected), compared with 18.5 in 1956. Four of the births were illegitimate.

There were 4 still births which represents a rate of 42.2 per thousand live births. In 1956 this figure was 10.1 and in 1955, 11.5. The National rate for 1957 is 23.0 per thousand live births.

The number of deaths at all ages was 71 giving a death rate of 13.2 per thousand of population compared with 14.6 in 1956.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There were 4 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 3 of the deaths resulting from congenital defects and occurring in the first 4 weeks of life.

Deaths from cancer decreased from 12 in 1956 to 11 in 1957, none of which were due to lung cancer. These figures are too small to have any statistical significance however.

There was one death from Tuberculosis during the year.

Vital Statistics.

Population of the Urban District is 5,340.

LIVE BIRTHS :—

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1000 pop. Uncor.	Rate per 1000 pop. Cor.
1952	Legitimate	40	55	95			
	Illegitimate	0	3	3	98	18.9	18.5
1953	Legitimate	36	46	82			
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	82	15.6	15.2
1954	Legitimate	41	43	84			
	Illegitimate	2	0	2	86	16.3	16.6
1955	Legitimate	45	38	83			
	Illegitimate	2	1	3	86	16.23	16.55
1956	Legitimate	49	45	94			
	Illegitimate	2	2	4	98	18.5	18.9
1957	Legitimate	50	43	93			
	Illegitimate	0	2	2	95	17.8	18.0

STILL BIRTHS :—

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births
1952	Legitimate	0	1	1		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	10.1
1953	Legitimate	2	1	3		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	3	35.29
1954	Legitimate	0	2	2		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	22.7
1955	Legitimate	0	1	1		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	11.5
1956	Legitimate	0	1	1		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	10.1
1957	Legitimate	2	2	4		
	Illegitimate	0	0	4	4	42.2

DEATHS :—

Year		Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 pop Uncorrected	Rate per 1000 pop Corrected
1952		38	38	76	14.7	13.8
1953		28	34	62	11.8	11.09
1954		37	35	72	13.7	12.6
1955		45	37	82	15.5	14.2
1956		35	42	77	14.6	14.6
1957		32	39	71	13.2	13.2

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live & still) births.
1952	0	—
1953	1	11.7
1954	0	—
1955	0	—
1956	0	—
1957	0	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES :—

Year	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	All Infants per 1000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1000 live Legitimate Births	Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live Illegitimate Births
1952	4	41	42	—
1953	3	37	37	—
1954	1	12	12	—
1955	4	46	48	—
1956	3	31	32	—
1957	4	42	42	—

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE :—

Year	Pulmonary T.B. Deaths	Other T.B. Deaths	Total T.B. Deaths	Pulmonary T.B. Death Rate per 1000 pop.	Total T.B. Death Rate per 1000 pop.
1952	0	0	0	—	—
1953	0	0	0	—	—
1954	0	1	1	—	.19
1955	0	0	0	—	—
1956	0	0	0	—	—
1957	1	0	1	.19	.19

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES (Uncorrected) :—

BIRTH RATE.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
England and Wales	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7	16.1
County of Cumberland	17.3	16.7	16.4	16.4	16.9	17.9
Urban Districts of Cumberland	17.6	17.5	17.5	16.7	17.5	18.8
Cockermouth Urban	18.9	15.6	16.3	16.2	18.5	17.8

DEATH RATE.

England and Wales	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7	11.5
County of Cumberland	12.1	11.9	11.9	12.2	12.2	12.1
Urban Districts of Cumberland	12.9	11.8	11.4	12.2	12.3	12.2
Cockermouth Urban	14.7	11.8	13.7	15.5	14.6	13.2

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

England and Wales	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8	23.0
County of Cumberland	32.0	27.0	27.6	28.4	30.4	26.4
Urban Districts of Cumberland	29.0	30.0	24.9	27.3	32.5	25.8
Cockermouth Urban	40.8	37.0	12.0	46.5	30.6	42.0

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1957.

Causes of Death	Males. Females.	
	All Causes	32 39
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	1 0
2. Tuberculosis, Other	..	0 0
3. Syphilitic Disease	..	0 0
4. Diphtheria	..	0 0
5. Whooping Cough	..	0 0
6. Meningo-coccal Infections	..	0 0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	..	0 0
8. Measles	..	0 0
9. Other infective and Parasitic diseases	..	1 0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	..	1 1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	0 0
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	0 2
13. Malignant neoplasm Uterus	..	0 0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	2 5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	0 0
16. Diabetes	..	1 0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	4 10
18. Coronary disease, angina	..	7 5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	0 0
20. Other heart disease	..	3 8
21. Other circulatory disease	..	0 1
22. Influenza	..	0 0
23. Pneumonia	..	2 1
24. Bronchitis	..	2 0
25. Other diseases of the Respiratory System	..	1 0
26. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	..	0 1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	0 0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	..	0 0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	..	1 0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	0 0
31. Congenital malformations	..	1 2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	4 3
33. Motor-vehicle accidents	..	0 0
34. All other accidents	..	0 0
35. Suicide	..	1 0
36. Homicide and operations of war	..	0 0

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths under 1 year showing varying causes and ages.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year.
Hypoplasia Kidney				1	1					1
Cerebral Aplasia	1				1					1
Spina Bifida						1				1
Prematurity	1				1					1
Total	2			1	3	1				4

SENILE DEATH RATE.

Age at Death.	Males	Females	Total
65—70 years	2	4	6
70—75 years	2	7	9
75—80 years	3	11	14
80—85 years	2	7	9
85—90 years	1	1	2
90—95 years	1	0	1
Totals	—	—	—
	11	30	41

Senile Death Rate 52% of Total Deaths (1956—77.0).

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.

Cause	No. of Deaths	% of all causes	Rate per 1000 of population.
Suicide	1956	0	—
	1957	1	—
Road Traffic	1956	0	—
Accidents	1957	0	—
Other	1956	3	.57
Violence	1957	0	—
Total	1956	3	.57
	1957	1	—

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Site of Cancer.		Males	Females
Alimentary :	Stomach	1	1
	Calon	1	2
Glandular :	Breast	0	2
	Lymphatics	0	1
Respiratory :	Lung	0	0
	Larynx	1	0
Tegumental :	Abdomen	0	1
	Pinnaofear	0	1
Totals		3	8

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
Between 30—40	0	0	0
40—50	0	4	4
50—60	1	0	1
60—70	0	0	0
70—80	2	3	5
80—90	0	1	1
Totals	3	8	11

CANCER DEATH RATE 2.2 per 1,000 population (1956 : 1.9 per 1,000 population).

Approximately one death in six was due to Cancer.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1957 was 22. Excluding measles and whooping cough the number is 6.

There were no notifications or deaths from Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Typhoid, or Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two notifications of food poisoning were received. The organism in each case was *Salmonella Typhi-murium*. No connection was ever found between the two cases and the source was never discovered. One of the cases contracted Broncho-pneumonia and died.

There was one death from Tuberculosis, the last death occurring from this disease being in 1954.

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	25	27	52
Non Pulmonary	6	7	13
Totals	31	34	65

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Disease :—

Influenza is not a notifiable disease so that we have no definite figures of the numbers affected. An indication of the spread of influenza is given by the amount of sickness benefit claims tendered at the local office of the Ministry of National Insurance. When the weekly average rises above a certain level the Medical Officer is notified accordingly. The rise occurred in Cocker-mouth during the week ended 3rd September, 1957, increased until the end of October and then gradually subsided to normal proportions about the end of the year.

The virus was Influenza A type of Asian origin (Singapore). According to the statistics of the National Insurance Ministry, the only other places to have an increase in Sickness Benefit which could be related to Influenza of Asian type previously to Cocker-mouth, were parts of eastern Lancashire.

The majority of people first effected during this week in Cocker-mouth were the younger age group employed in the local shoe factory.

There are two possible reasons for this.

Firstly the adolescent in industry has not yet acquired his general immunity and therefore is at risk. (This is the main reason why B.C.G. vaccination is offered to school leavers).

Secondly a large group of susceptibles congregated together make for the fast spread of any organism especially such a virulent one as the Influenza virus. Why should one of the first places in the country where Asian 'flu began be Cocker-mouth? It is possible that the connecting link might be Lancashire as there is considerable movement of transport between the shoe industry here and the area of Lancashire where the 'flu first showed itself.

—o—

IMMUNISATION.

DIPHTHERIA.

Figures kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer are given in tabular form, showing the number of Diphtheria Immunisations carried out and the position at the end of 1957,

SMALLPOX.

Age when vaccinated or re-vaccinated	Number Vaccinated	Number Re-vaccinated
Under 1	8	—
1	1	—
2—4	—	—
5—14	0	2
15 or over	—	—
	<hr/> 9 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

B.C.G. (Tuberculosis).

Mantoux testing, Mass Miniature Radiography and B.C.G. vaccination was continued in 1957, the age group concerned being those born in 1943. Of the children in this age group attending the Secondary Schools in Cockermouth, consent was given in 105 cases, a consent rate of 80%. Of those, 104 were tested, and 30 found to be positive reactors. Of the 74 negative reactors, all were given B.G.G. vaccination.

The figure of 30 positive reactors i.e. 28.8% compares favourably with results obtained elsewhere in the County.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATIONS.

Poliomyelitis vaccinations have been carried out as follows. In each case two injections were given.

	Children born in years 1943 to 1957.	
Vaccinated during 1956	..	1
Vaccinated during 1957	..	18
Vaccinated 1 Jan. — 31 Aug. 1958	..	835

Diphtheria Immunisation undertaken during 1957.

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Primary Inoculation						1		1				2	8	27	39
Booster							2		1	3					6
															<u>45</u>

State of Immunisation at end of 1957.

Number of children under 15 years of age known to have been inoculated in the district.

Age on 31/12/57	under 1	1—4	5—9	10—14	Total under 15
Year of Birth	1957	1953-56	1948-52	1943-47	
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1953-1957		176	308	309	793
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed prior to 1953.			135	162	297

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS 1956.

	Total Cases	Age Distribution.								Monthly Incidence of Disease												Deaths of Cases
		Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—44 years	45—64 years	over 65 years	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.		Dec.
Scarlet Fever	1										1							2	3	2		1
Whooping Cough	8		3	1																		
Acute Poliomyelitis				4	1																	
Paralytic																						
Non-Paralytic																						
Measles	7		2	3	2								6					1				
Diphtheria																						
Acute Pneumonia																						
Dysentery																						
Smallpox																						
Acute Encephalitis																						
Infective																						
Post-infections																						
Enteric or Typhoid																						
Fever																						
Erysipelas																						
Meningococcal																						
Infection																						
Food Poisoning	2							1		1												
Puerperal Pyrexia																						
Ophthalmia																						
Neonatorum																						
Tuberculosis																						
Respiratory	3						1	1		1		1	1	1	1							
Meninges																						
and C.N.S.																						
Other forms	1								1													
Totals	22		5	8	3		1	2	2	1		2	7	1		2	7	2	7	2		1

ANNUAL REPORT

**OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR
M. M. DIXON, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.San.I.**

For the year 1957.

WATER SUPPLY

The method of obtaining water by bulk supply from Workington Corporation's trunk main from Crummoek continued as before. The total amount abstracted during the year into the Council's Moor reservoir was 101,000,000 gallons, equivalent to an average daily consumption per head of just over 50 gallons. This figure includes trade supplies which account for approximately 10% of the consumption. Treatment of the lake water continued as set out in my 1955 report. The Workington Corporation and my department continued sampling for bacteriological analysis and received consistently good reports from the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory. The amount supplied to the high level areas of the town via the Sunscles reservoir averaged 81,000 gallons per day which was 29% of the total consumption.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The improvement scheme at the sewage disposal works was completed and enabled a much greater degree of efficiency to be obtained in the running of the works. It can now be said that the effluent discharged to the River Derwent is consistently satisfactory.

REFUSE REMOVAL

There was no alteration in the service of scavenging and refuse removal. The Council purchased an additional mechanical vehicle, having in mind the provision of a bi-weekly collection in all parts of the town.

FACTORIES ACT - 1937.

There are 41 factories registered in the area all of which are periodically inspected to ensure compliance with the regulations.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The firm of fellmongers continued to trade in the Urban area. The premises were regularly inspected and were found to be efficiently maintained.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Act continued to be administered as detailed in my 1955 report.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation on the 1st July, 1956. The purport of the regulations was conveyed to all firms concerned and inspections are being made of all premises in the area. It is hoped that it will be possible in future years to report continuing improvements in the standard of food premises, following the implementation of these regulations.

Condemnation of unsound food was continued, the following being the main items of food condemned :—

4 lbs. Pressed Beef.
23 lbs. Corned Beef.
12 tins Evaporated Milk.
1 lb. 10 oz. Pork Luncheon Meat.
30 tins Fruit.
4 tins Baked Beans.
2 tins Soup.
30 lbs. 12 ozs. Lunch Tongue
2 tins Peas.
1 tin Stewed Steak.
3 tins Tomatoes.
10 lbs. Ham.
4 lb. 2 ozs. Canned Pork.
1 lb. 10 ozs. Chopped Ham.
17 lb. 12 ozs. Canned Ham
12 ozs. Pork Brawn.
1 can Fish.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are three slaughterhouses in the Urban area, licenced by the Council.

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs.
Animals slaughtered	308	1530	262
Carcases Inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING.

It is reported with regret that there were no houses completed by the Council during the year. 26 houses were built by private enterprise.

During the past thirteen years, 356 Council and 86 private enterprise houses have been built in the Urban area.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Council received five applications for Improvement Grants all of which were approved. In four cases the works were completed and the Grants paid.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

NUISANCES :—

Written Intimatory Notices served	...	...	...	10
Written Intimatory Notices complied with	...	...	...	10

SANITARY WORK :—

Choked Drains, defective I.C.'s and gullies	...	...	...	8
Factory Inspections	...	..	...	51
Visits to Offensive Trades	...	...	...	7
Visits re food condemnation	...	...	...	13

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED — 1957.

Daley—Milk Store, Tarn Close, Lorton Road.
 Armstrong—Garage, 65, Holly Square.
 Walker—Store, Bridge Street.
 Potts—Conversion to house, South Street.
 Tolsons—Car Showroom, Crown Street.
 Bradbury—Bungalow, Lorton Road.
 Armstrong—Timber Drying Kiln, Workington Road.
 Wood—Garage, Mayo Street.
 Malloy—Garage, 3, Harrot Road.
 Simpson—House Extension, Sunseales Avenue.
 Petch—Garage, 7, Kirkbank.
 Dixon—Garage, 4, Whinfell Avenue.
 Benson—Garage, 2, Kirkbank.
 Bell—Bungalow, Windmill Lane.
 N.E.H.A.—12 Council Houses, Windmill Lane and Woodside Ave.
 Glendinning—Garage, Kirkbank.
 Hayton—Bathroom, 17, Henry Street
 Senior—Bathroom, 5, Skiddaw View.
 Jennings Bros.—Gantry, Castle Brewery.
 Smith—Garage, Waste Lane.
 Williams—Garage, 8, Princes Road.
 Snaith—Bungalow, Beech Lane.
 Byers—Garage, 3, High Sand Lane.
 Cumberland C.C.—2 Police Houses, Beech Lane.
 Millers Ltd.—Store, Derwent Mill.
 Twiname—2 Houses, Isel Road.
 Millers Ltd.—Canteen and Toilets, Derwent Mill.
 Winders—Garage, 3, Melbreak Avenue.
 Lister—Alterations, 9, Skiddaw View.
 Stamper—2 Bungalows, Oakhurst Road.
 Hartley—Bungalow, Parkside Avenue.
 Smith—Garage, Challoner Street.
 Cumberland C.C.—Temporary Classroom, Fairfield.
 Tinker—Alterations, Elmhurst.
 Brown—Alterations, Elmhurst.



